

'Operation Sentinel' launched in response to recent events in Arabian Gulf with New joint-industry reporting guidance

23rd July 2019

U.S. Central Command develops 'Operation Sentinel' in response to the recent maritime security incidents in the Arabian Gulf.

Operation Sentinel is a multinational maritime effort, to increase surveillance and security in key waterways in the Middle East to ensure freedom of navigation in light of recent events.

The goal of Operation Sentinel is to promote maritime stability, ensure safe passage, and de-escalate tensions in international waters throughout the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Oman.

This framework will enable nations to provide escort to their flagged vessels and take advantage of the cooperation of participating nations for coordination and surveillance.

The statement released by U.S. Central Command is provided below:

U.S. Central Command Statement on Operation Sentinel

U.S. Central Command

TAMPA, Fla., July 19, 2019

U.S. Central Command is developing a multinational maritime effort, Operation Sentinel, to increase surveillance of and security in key waterways in the Middle East to ensure freedom of navigation in light of recent events in the Arabian Gulf region.

The goal of Operation Sentinel is to promote maritime stability, ensure safe passage, and de-escalate tensions in international waters throughout the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait (BAM) and the Gulf of Oman.

This maritime security framework will enable nations to provide escort to their flagged vessels while taking advantage of the cooperation of participating nations for coordination and enhanced maritime domain awareness and surveillance.

While the United States has committed to supporting this initiative, contributions and leadership from regional and international partners will be required to succeed.

U.S. officials continue to coordinate with allies and partners in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East on the details and capabilities required for Operation Sentinel to enable freedom of navigation in the region and protect vital shipping lanes.

New joint-industry reporting guidance

BIMCO, ICS, Intertanko and OCIMF have jointly released reporting guidance for vessels transiting the Arabian Gulf (AG), Straits of Hormuz (SoH) and Gulf of Oman (GOO).

The guidance provides that to ensure the safety of all vessels and allow navies to afford best protection it is vital:

- Masters register with UKMTO when entering the Indian Ocean VRA (Ref C & D).
- Comply with Flag State Guidance.
- 24-48 hrs in advance - Masters provide transit plans for the SoH and AG to UKMTO including:
 - Time of Entering/Exiting the SoH TSS.
 - Outline of Navigation Plan whilst operating in SoH and AG.
 - Any constraints or speed restrictions.
 - Crew Nationality.
- CSO's ensure all contact numbers for UKMTO and USNAVCENT NCAGS are correct.
- In the event of any incident or being concerned, Masters should call UKMTO immediately.
- Masters answer all VHF calls from coalition navies. Ch16 is becoming very busy, alternative channels will be offered.
- CSOs and Masters prepare, print and have available the correct response if called on VHF.

UKMTO will share information with the navies joining Operation Sentinel.

This guidance is set out below;

Reporting Guidance for vessels transiting the Arabian Gulf (AG), Straits of Hormuz (SoH) and Gulf of Oman (GOO)

Reference:

A. UKMTO Advisory Notice 002/JUL/2029.

B. U.S. Maritime Alert 2019-004A.

C. BMP5.

D. UKHO Security Chart Q6099.

The incidents against tankers transiting Straits of Hormuz on Friday 19 July have been widely reported (Ref A & B).

To ensure the safety of all vessels and allow navies to afford best protection to global trade it is vital:

- Masters register with UKMTO when entering the Indian Ocean VRA (Ref C & D).
- Comply with Flag State Guidance.
- 24-48 hrs in advance - Masters provide transit plans for the SoH and AG to UKMTO including:
 - o Time of Entering/Exiting the SoH TSS.
 - o Outline of Navigation Plan whilst operating in SoH and AG.
 - o Any constraints or speed restrictions.
 - o Crew Nationality.
- CSO's ensure all contact numbers for UKMTO and USNAVCENT NCAGS are correct.
- In the event of any incident or being concerned, Masters should call UKMTO immediately.

Masters answer all VHF calls from coalition navies. Ch16 is becoming very busy, alternative channels will be offered.

CSOs and Masters prepare, print and have available the correct response if called on VHF.

UKMTO will share information with the navies joining Operation Sentinel, and questions regarding information sharing can be directed to UKMTO. Navies are operating in the SoH and to offer best protection they need to be aware of all vessel movements and intentions.

Useful BMP Contact details:

UKMTO:

Tel: +44 2392 222060

watchkeepers@ukmto.org

USNAVCENT NCAGS

24/7 Watch: +973-1785-0084

CUSNC.NCAGS_BW@me.navy.mil

Download additional sources of information:

Safety & Security and the use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) in Arabian Gulf, Strait of

Hormuz and Gulf of Oman

BMP5: Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden,

Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

OCIMF's Ship Security: Hull Vulnerability Study

NATO ATP2 - NCAGS Guide to Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers Edition A
Version 1 Annex D to Chp 4

“This guidance should be posted on the bridge for ease of access to watch officers and covered in watch hand overs.”

This Newsletter, and our information archive, can also be accessed at www.pferrari.com

P L FERRARI & Co.